Springfield Township High School

**Graduation Project Annotated Bibliography**

**Student Name: Jasmine Winters**

**Annotation # 5**

**MLA Citation:**

Patricelli, Kathryn. "Why Do People Abuse?" *www.mentalhelp.net*. Mark Dombeck, 15   
     Dec. 2005. Web. 15 Mar. 2011. <http://www.mentalhelp.net/poc/   
     view\_doc.php?type=doc&id=8482>.

**INFORMATION:**

Author’s credentials:

The author of this article is very informed on the topic. Kathryn Patricelli has a masters degree in counseling and psychological services. She has worked as a counselor doing individual, couple and family counseling.

Scope and purpose of the work:

This article is an informational piece, intending to inform the reader with different reasons to why people abuse.

Intended Audience:

The audience for this article is a general audience, but because it was written by a doctor it would be really useful for maybe therapists who want to learn more about the subject of why people abuse.

**SUMMARY**

Thesis or main idea:

The main idea of the article is that people abuse because they have experienced it first hand by being the victim or they have witnessed it being done.

Summary of main arguments:

The author argues that people who have been abused are more likely to abuse or that abusive behavior can mount from mental health issues or disorders. The author also argues that some people have an empathy deficit.

**EVIDENCE**

Summary of evidence:

The author says that people who have been abused are more likely to abuse because that’s what they have learned and by becoming the abuser or the “aggressor” they are not making themselves the helpless vulnerable victim. They are able to take control of their own life and not be at the mercy of someone’s abuse any more. The author also talked about how abusive behavior can come from different types of mental health issues such as anger management issues or has been diagnosed with intermittent explosive disorder or a drug or alcohol problem. These issues may cause the person to physically or verbally strike out on somebody. The last point that the author argued for why someone might abuse is because they are lacking empathy deficit. When someone is abused as a child their empathic abilities never develop. They treat people as objects and when someone acts like this they most likely have psychological personality disorders such as being a sociopath or psychopath.

**EVALUATION**

Evaluation of research:

This was the first article I looked at on why people abuse and I felt like it was a really good article. It provided a lot of information on the topic and opened up my eyes to different reasons.

 Evaluation of scope:

The topic in this article was very well addressed. The author was very informed on the topic and she provided a lot of information.

Evaluation of author bias:

The author of this article was not biased. I think she simply provided proven reasons why people abuse. I don’t feel like this is a topic for which someone can be biased.

**REFLECTION:**

This article contained a lot of good information even though it was a smaller article. It will be very beneficial for my research paper.